

A¹

By "means for treating" is meant any method or treatment that exposes a binding site of the binding agent on the Gram-negative bacterial antigen or on the Gram-positive bacterial antigen thereof. Such means include, without limitation, physical manipulation, including homogenization (with, for example, a Dounce homogenizer), sonication, and boiling. Other "means for treating" include treatment of the sample with chemical solutions or compounds including, without limitation, detergents (e.g., SDS or octoxynol, which is sold under the trademark Triton®), alkaline lysis solutions (e.g., a basic solution), acidic lysis solutions (e.g., an acidic solution), EDTA, EGTA, surfactants, metal ions, cations, anions, chelators, and enzymes.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 9-13 and 19-22 without prejudice.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(i), please amend claims to read as follows.

Sub B1
A²

1. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in donor blood or blood product from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal comprising contacting a sample of the donor blood or blood product with a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen and binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, determining binding of the set of binding agents to the Gram-negative bacterial antigen and the Gram-positive bacterial antigen in the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in the donor blood or blood product and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in the donor blood or blood product, and identifying the donor blood or blood product from the donor mammal determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria as useful for transfer to the recipient mammal.

Sub B3
A³

7. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in donor blood or blood product from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal comprising contacting a sample of the donor blood or

Sub B3
A3
Cont

blood product with a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, determining binding of the set of binding agents to the Gram-positive bacterial antigen in the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor blood or blood product and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor blood or blood product, and identifying the donor blood or blood product from the donor mammal determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria as useful for transfer to the recipient mammal.

8. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in donor blood or blood product from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal comprising contacting a sample of the donor blood or blood product with a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen, determining binding of the set of binding agents to the Gram-negative bacterial antigen in the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in the donor blood or blood product and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in the donor blood or blood product, and identifying the donor blood or blood product from the donor mammal determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria as useful for transfer to the recipient mammal.

Sub B4
A4

14. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in a donor tissue from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal, wherein the donor tissue is stored in a fluid, comprising contacting a sample of the fluid with a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen and binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, determining binding of the set of binding agents to the Gram-negative bacterial antigen and the Gram-positive bacterial antigen in the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in the donor tissue and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically

A4
CMT

relevant amount of bacteria in the donor tissue, and identifying the donor tissue from the donor mammal determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria as useful for transfer to the recipient mammal.

Sub
B41

A5

17. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in a donor tissue from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal, wherein the donor tissue is stored in a fluid, comprising contacting a sample of fluid with a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, determining binding of the set of binding agents to the Gram-positive bacterial antigen in the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor tissue and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor tissue, and identifying the donor tissue from the donor mammal determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria as useful for transfer to the recipient mammal.

18. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in a donor tissue from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal, wherein the donor tissue is stored in a fluid, comprising contacting a sample of the fluid with a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen, determining binding of the set of binding agents to the Gram-negative bacterial antigen and the Gram-positive bacterial antigen in the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in the donor tissue and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in the donor tissue, and identifying the donor tissue from the donor mammal determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria as useful for transfer to the recipient mammal.
